

**American University of Beirut
Minutes of the University Senate
Meeting of Friday, 30 March 2012**

Present: H. Abou Arraj (for M. Salameh), A. Al-Kutoubi, S. Arnaout, S. Chahine, N. Dajani, A. Dallal (chairing), I. El-Hajj, M. El-Sabban, N. Ghaddar (by invitation, interdisciplinary programs committee), R. Habib, S. Harb, H. Huijer, N. Hwalla, D. Jamali, Z. Kassaify, S. Kenney, I. Lakkis, P. May, J. Melki, P. McGreevy, G. Najjar, W. Nasr, S. Neaime, T. Nizameddin, S. Noureddine, I. Nuwayhid, J. Radulski, R. Sabra (for M. Sayegh), A. Safieddine (BGS, chairperson), S. Saleh, I. Saoud, F. Sleiman, M. Suidan, R. Talhouk (by invitation, interdisciplinary programs committee), S. Talhouk, J. Usta.

Absent: M.A. Al-Alaoui, A. Abdelnoor*, A. Abdel-Rahman, B. Barhoumi, R. Brow, P. Dorman*, G. Farag, R. Foster, J. Ghafari*, S. Isber, R. Khayat-Toubia, G. Matar*, S. Sadek*, M. Tabbal*, A. Zenger.

(* = regrets notified before meeting or on leave)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Approval of minutes

Minutes of February 20, 2012 (meeting with Board of Trustees) approved as amended (28-0-0)

Minutes of February 24, 2012 (regular meeting) approved as presented (28-0-0)

2. Voting of degrees, February 2012 graduates.

Dean McGreevy, Prof. R. Sabra (representing Dean Sayegh), Dr. Huijer, Dean Nuwayhid, Assoc. Dean Moukalled (representing Dean Suidan), Dean Hwalla, and Dean Najjar presented motions recommending the awarding of degrees to graduates in their respective Schools: (Attached list of expected graduates of February 2012)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FAS graduates and graduates with distinction

Vote 2012-22: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FM graduates

Vote 2012-23: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FM NURSING graduates

Vote 2012-24: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FHS graduates

Vote 2012-25: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FEA graduates and graduates with distinction

Vote 2012-26: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to FAFS graduates and graduates with distinction

Vote 2012-27: Motion approved (unanimous)

Motion: Recommend to senate and president awarding degrees to OSB graduates and graduates with distinction

Vote 2012-28: Motion approved (unanimous)

3. Report on the February 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees

Provost Dallal summarized main decisions and actions taken by the Board of Trustees. He informed the Senate that the BOT meeting consisted mostly of a retreat to set strategies for the upcoming capital campaign. He indicated that the BOT approved the following: MS in Construction Engineering, MS-ME In Chemical Engineering, the Faculty of Medicine Policy on Academic Tracks, and the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Review Committee investigating allegations against AUB. In response to inquiries by senators, the Provost indicated that while the investigation uncovered no fraud or other wrongdoing, steps are being taken to strengthen IT systems and business processes in response to recommendations from the committee. Further discussion addressed AUB's interaction with the New York Attorney General's Office concerning the final report, as well as concerns over AUB's communications response regarding the matter and the impact on alumni and donor relations. The Provost indicated that in light of the serious attention given to the matter by trustees, donor and alumni response has been largely positive.

4. Proposal from the University Disciplinary Committee on revisiting the Student Code of Conduct pertaining to issues of cheating, plagiarism, and paper-writing services; and drug use. (see attachment)

Dean Nuwayhid circulated a proposal to senators for discussion and action on substance abuse and academic misconduct. He explained that UDC discusses diverse issues at length as they arise but that the committee cannot act beyond its mandate which is limited to disciplinary measures. These same issues are being dealt with at the level of Faculties. The UDC recommends the adoption of a comprehensive approach which sets a plan of action that focuses on prevention as complementary to disciplinary measures. The process should look into issues that are conducive to misconduct and should deal with academic as well as non-academic misconduct such as substance abuse. A discussion followed and included suggestions to keep issues at the Faculty level and only bring difficult cases to UDC, to identify interventions that may prevent various misconducts, to find mechanisms to standardize between Faculties in terms of how misconducts are dealt with, and to conduct campaigns that target specific misconducts such as drug abuse. Regarding this latter issue, Dean Nizameddin indicated that the student affairs office is preparing a University wide campaign. He highlighted the need to review policy to include principles and

measures and to provide outreach programs that inform students as part of an educational process. He also indicated that the lack of points of reference may be the reason why there are discrepancies between schools. It was agreed that Deans Nuwayhid and Nizameddin will meet and prepare a set of recommendations for consideration and action by the senate.

5. Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) to establish the Division of University Interdisciplinary Programs (DUIP)(see attachments)

Dr. Safieddin informed the senate that the BGS met on March 16 and approved the proposal to establish the DUIP. He indicated that this is a long overdue administrative body that will facilitate interdisciplinary programs. Excusing himself due to teaching commitments, Dr. Safieddin left the meeting and gave the floor to Dr. R. Talhouk who presented a historical background leading to the planning for the Division, an overview of interdisciplinary research and studies in the USA, and a proposed administrative structure and role of the DUIP. Discussion that followed commented on process; it was indicated that the proposal submission did not secure approval by Faculties nor did it engage faculty involvement. The provost explained that DUIP does not require approval by Faculties because it is not a unit within a Faculty. He also added that input was solicited from faculties, that the proposal was circulated and discussed for a year and a half, and that some Faculties were more responsive and involved in the review process than others. The purpose is to establish an entity that includes layers that parallel those present in Faculties. Supporting comments included the fact that DUIP formalizes AUB support to interdisciplinarity and this will impact the approach adopted to tackle regional issues. The School of Arts and Sciences identified interdisciplinarity as a priority within the Faculty and interfaculty programs between departments will need a structure to house them. This is the first time that there is consensus among Deans in support of interdisciplinarity. Concerns raised included the need to provide support for Faculties because human and physical resources will be drawn from them to sustain the DUIP, to secure buy in from faculty members throughout the University, to provide clear definition on how faculty promotion will be dealt with, that interdisciplinary research and not degrees are wide spread among US universities, and that DUIP will require space and financial resources. Additional comments included the fact that some interdisciplinary programs can be accommodated within a School or between two Schools.

Motion: Approve Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) to establish the Division of University Interdisciplinary Programs (DUIP)

Substitute Motion: Return Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) to establish the Division of University Interdisciplinary Programs (DUIP) to be discussed and approved by Faculties

Motion: To vote by secret ballot on substitute motion

Vote 2012-29: 1-12-10

Vote on Substitute Motion 2012-30: 5-12-6

Motion: Approve 6-page summary Proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) to establish the Division of University Interdisciplinary Programs (DUIP)

Vote 2012-31: 15-2-6

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.
Salma Talhouk, secretary